

CHAS-357
TOBACCO BARN, The Exchange
Spring Hill
Private

mid-18th century

Believed to be contemporary in its date of construction with The Exchange (CHAS-299), this modest sized barn is the best preserved of the known 18th century barns in the county. Of one-story with a high and steeply pitched roof, it displays many features thought to be characteristic of early barn construction. Doors at each end of the main body of the barn are hung on wrought strap hinges of an early design. Sheds were added to both sides of the barn at a later date, although it appears possible that the south shed could date as early as the late 18th century. Local tradition says that the barn also once housed a grainery and small, private grist mill. Though this is certainly possible, there is no discernable evidence of this use remaining.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-357

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM #010075200

1 NAME

HISTORIC

TOBACCO BARN, The Exchange

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Spring Hill-Newtown Road

CITY, TOWN

Spring Hill

☒ VICINITY OF La Plata

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

D. Fairfax Cooksey

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

The Exchange

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20646

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland 20646

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the north side of the entrance drive to The Exchange (CHAS-299), this modestly sized barn is believed to be the best preserved of the several known 18th century barns in Charles County.

Of typical post and beam construction with morticed and pinned joints, the barn contains a single first floor room with double doors at both ends. Although the tiers of original tobacco poles remain they have been altered from their original spacing, reflecting the changes in the size of tobacco leaves since the 18th century. The original structure, measuring roughly 30 by 40 feet, retains some of its original, exterior, riven board siding with wrought nails. The eaves, characteristic of 18th century barn construction, has tilted false plates paralleling the main wall plates and on this the rafters are seated. The exterior walls, with the exception of a small area at the east end of the south shed, is sheathed with vertical boards of comparatively recent date. The roof is covered with tin on the south side but retains an old covering of wood shingles on the north side. Sheds extending the full width of the sides are later, but it is possible that the south shed dates as early as the late 18th century. The two end doors of the main body of the barn are hung on wrought strap hinges of an early design.

This barn is similar to but in a much better state of preservation than the Johnsontown Barn (CHAS-332), although both are equally significant since they are the only two eighteenth century tobacco barns known to be still standing in the county.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Barn at The Exchange is located on a 153 acre property identified as parcel 78, Map 44 of the Charles County Tax Maps (revised January, 1976).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

June, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



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CH-357

P. 95

55%

CHAS-357

TOBACCO BARN, The Exchange
View From SE JRRivoire, 1978



CHAS-357

TOBACCO BARN, The Exchange

Door Hinge JRRivoire, 1978